Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method to manage use of a program, comprising:

establishing a secure communication environment between a monitored program and a managing program using a security code, wherein said monitored program and said managing program comprise said security code embedded therein;

determining by said managing program whether said monitored program is authorized to execute for a time interval;

sending said time interval encrypted with said security code to said monitored program;

measuring a usage time for said monitored program using said time interval; and

sending said usage time to a monitoring program.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises:

a) receiving a request for authorization to execute from said monitored program; and

b) authorizing said monitored program to execute for said time interval.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising repeating operations a) to b) until a terminating event has occurred.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said measuring comprises adding each time interval together to form said usage time once said terminating event has occurred.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said terminating event comprises receiving a message indicating execution has stopped.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said terminating event comprises failure to receive another request for authorization to execute within said time interval.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein operations a) and b) are performed using encrypted messages.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring program resides at a server, and sending said usage time comprises:

requesting a connection to said server;

connecting to said server; and

sending said usage time to said monitoring program over said connection.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said connection comprises a hypertext transfer protocol connection.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said connection comprises a secure hypertext transfer protocol connection.

11. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said authorizing comprises retrieving said time interval from an authorization table having at least one monitored program and corresponding time interval.

12. (Previously Presented) A method to monitor use of a program, comprising:

receiving a usage time for a monitored program over a network connection from a managing program, said usage time representing a time said monitored program executed with authorization using a time interval, said monitored program and said managing program comprising a security code embedded therein;

sending an authorization table to said managing program, said authorization table having at least one monitored program and said time interval; and

reporting said usage time to a user corresponding to said monitored program.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

determining a cost value associated with said usage time; and

sending said cost value to said user.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method to manage use of a program, comprising:

establishing a secure communication environment between a monitored program and a managing program using a security code, wherein said monitored program and said managing program comprise said security code embedded therein;

determining whether said monitored program has authorization to execute for a time interval;

receiving said time interval at said monitored program, said time interval being encrypted with said security code; and

executing said monitored program in accordance with said determination and said time interval.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said determining comprises:

requesting authorization to execute from a managing program; and

receiving authorization to execute from said managing program.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising sending a termination message to said managing program.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said determining comprises:

requesting authorization to execute from a managing program; and

waiting to receive authorization to execute from said managing program within a predetermined time period.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising failing to receive said authorization, and terminating execution of said monitored program.

20. (Previously Presented) A method to monitor use of a program, comprising:

establishing a secure communication environment between a monitored program and a managing program using a security code, wherein said monitored program and said managing program comprise said security code embedded therein;

determining whether said monitored program is authorized to execute for a time interval;

receiving said time interval at said monitored program, said time interval being encrypted with said security code;

measuring a usage time associated with said monitored program using said time interval;

reporting to a monitoring program said usage time; and

receiving said usage time at said monitoring program.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said determining comprises:

requesting authorization to execute a monitored program;

authorizing said execution for said time interval; and

determining whether said monitored program has executed for said time interval.

22. (Previously Presented) An article comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

said computer readable storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in establishing a secure communication environment between a monitored program and a managing program using a security code, wherein said monitored program and said managing program comprise said security code embedded therein; determining by said managing program whether said monitored program is authorized to execute for a time interval, sending said time interval encrypted with said security code to said monitored program, measuring a usage time for said monitored program using said time interval, and sending said usage time to a monitoring program.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 22, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether a monitored program is authorized to execute by receiving a request for authorization to execute from said monitored program, and authorizing said monitored program to execute for said time interval.

24. (Original) The article of claim 22, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in sending said usage time by requesting a connection to said server, connecting to said server, and sending said usage time to said monitoring program over said connection.

25. (Original) The article of claim 22, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in connecting to said server using a hypertext transfer protocol connection.

26. (Original) The article of claim 22, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in connecting to said server using a secure hypertext transfer protocol connection.

27. (Previously Presented) An article comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

said computer readable storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a usage time for a monitored program over a network connection from a managing program, said usage time representing a time said monitored program executed with authorization measured using a time interval, said monitored program and said managing program comprising a security code embedded therein, sending an authorization table to said managing program, said authorization table having at least one monitored program and said time interval, and reporting said usage time to a user corresponding to said monitored program.

28. (Original) The article of claim 27, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining a cost value associated with said usage time, and sending said cost value to said user.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) An article comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

said computer readable storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in establishing a secure communication environment between a monitored program and a managing program using a security code, wherein said monitored program and said managing program comprise said security code embedded therein; determining whether said monitored program has authorization to execute for a time interval, receiving said time interval at said monitored program, said time interval being encrypted with said security code, and executing said monitored program in accordance with said determination and said time interval.

31. (Original) The article of claim 30, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether a monitored program has authorization to execute by requesting authorization to execute from a managing program, and receiving authorization to execute from said managing program.

32. (Previously Presented) An article comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

said computer readable storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in establishing a secure communication environment between a monitored program and a managing program using a security code, wherein

said monitored program and said managing program comprise said security code embedded therein; determining whether said monitored program is authorized to execute for a time interval, receiving said time interval at said monitored program, said time interval being encrypted with said security code, measuring a usage time associated with said monitored program using said time interval, reporting to a monitoring program said usage time, and receiving said usage time at said monitoring program.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 32, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether a monitored program has authorization to execute by requesting authorization to execute a monitored program, authorizing said execution for said time interval, and determining whether said monitored program has executed for said time interval.